

Finance Committee
July 13, 2020
6 p.m. - City Hall Council Chambers

Chairman Tom Ptak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman Ptak, Alderman Demes, Alderman Lavieri, Alderman Jeppson

Absent: Alderman Herndon

Others present: Alderman Bacidore, Alderman Reynolds Finance Director John Duncan, City Clerk Carrie Brown, Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Mayor Jeff Grove, Economic Development Director Leah Inman

A quorum was present.

The minutes of the Finance Committee held on June 29, 2020 were unanimously approved by the Committee after a motion from Alderman Demes and a second from Alderman Lavieri.

Alderman Bacidore had a question regarding \$3,000 going to Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce (IVAC) for annual dues. He questioned why the amount was not approved by a vote at a City Council meeting. The alderman said the fee was discussed at the lengthy June 4 Finance Committee meeting where they discussed the budget. All alderman in attendance at that meeting expressed enthusiasm in continuing the dues. Other dues discussed at that meeting including ones to North Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation and Starved Rock Country Alliance were formally approved as separate line items at a City Council meeting. Chairman Tom Ptak asked whether the approval was on a City Council agenda. City Clerk Carrie Brown clarified that IVAC Executive Director Joni Hunt was schedule to attend the previous June 29 City Council meeting but did not and no further action was taken. Economic Development Director Leah Inman said she had planned to attend but Mayor Jeff Grove asked her to come another time due to the length of the agenda. Finance Director John Duncan confirmed the fees are in the City's proposed Appropriations Ordinance to be approved at the next City Council meeting on July 27. Alderman Bacidore asked that the dues be added to the next City Council agenda for approval.

When asked if he had anything to add, Finance Director Duncan said the Appropriations Ordinance is ready for approval with notice going in the News Tribune on July 14 as well as copies be available for review at City Hall and online.

Fire Chief Andy Bacidore and Joe Mulcahy of Paramedic Services of Illinois (PSI) presented to the Finance Committee an increase in ambulance rates. The City recently joined a new Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program. Fire Chief Bacidore, Finance Director Duncan, Mayor Grove, and Alderman Diz Demes discussed one of the areas for review to increase revenue was a change in rates. Medicare and Medicaid rates were dropping and the City was able to increase reimbursements by joining the GEMT program which could lead to a significant savings, as many transports the City handles are Medicare and Medicaid instead of private insurance. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed implementation of the program but Joe was able to attend some webinars which discussed how cities should consider raising their rates to the minimum cost of the call for the city. The city's cost for a call is \$1060, compared to the current \$440 rate. Joe also learned that all of a City's rates should remain the same price regardless of if they have Medicare, Medicaid or are privately insured. Fire Chief Bacidore explained that the rise won't affect the out-of-pocket expenses for the elderly but may be affect those

with private insurance. The City previously had not been receiving as much reimbursement for transports of those with Medicaid. Mayor Grove clarified that the ambulance service had not raised its rates at all since its inception and a rise won't affect La Salle residents. The aldermen questioned whether the rate should be raised above \$1060 to meet rising costs but Fire Chief Bacidore said at this time \$1060 is a good price as the City can produce information showing their current overhead costs are \$1060. Aldermen Demes made a motion to recommend the increase to the full City Council with a second from Alderman Joe Jeppson.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



Carrie Brown, City Clerk by Deputy City Clerk Brent Bader